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Cozy Christmas Carols
A Christmas Carol Service was held at the Essonville Historic Church the evening of Dec. 15. Built in 1888, the building has was filled with songs and stories during the holiday tradition.
/TIM YANO Staff photographer

County council chooses Burton to be warden

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County has a new face in the warden's seat at the council table.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton shuffled from the deputy warden's chair to the top spot on council for a one-year term.

The upper tier council chose between Burton and Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter during a Dec. 10 election.

Burton was nominated by Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen, who was the outgoing warden, and Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey.

Carter was tapped to be a choice by Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux.

Danielsen spoke about how proud it has made her to be the county's warden

see BURTON page 2

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Kilcoo sexual assault resolved in settlement

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A settlement has been found between former Kilcoo Camp director David Latimer and J. Doe #1 and J. Doe #2, who, in late July of 2023, brought forward sexual assault allegations against the director.

As of Dec. 12, 2024, the lawsuit has been resolved by mutual agreement of the parties.

The well-known director, who spent his career at Kilcoo Camp in Minden, was accused of sexual misconduct that arose in the 1990s and early 2000s. Two cases were put forward in the summer of 2023, with the plaintiffs identified as J. Doe # 1 and J. Doe # 2. Due to the ages of the plaintiffs at the time of the alleged incidents, both cases received a sealing and non-publication order on their names.

"Over time and throughout their young adulthood, the effects of the psychological trauma inflicted by Latimer's sexual assault intensified," reads the claim brought against Latimer on July 27, 2023.

Latimer had been the director of Kilcoo since 1985, as well as the director of community life at Greenwood College School in Toronto, where he left in 2023 following rumours that he violated boundaries with a number of minor students at the facility.

The former camp director denied all sexual misconduct allegations included in the lawsuits, and none of the allegations brought forward in the claims were tested in court.

At this time, no details of the settlement have been shared, but Kilcoo Camp has released a formal statement on their website, as well as a sexual harassment and abuse policy, and an anti-bullying policy.

The message also reminded the public that Latimer stepped down as camp director in light of the allegations, and has since been replaced by Patrick Tingley. "David Latimer will not be involved in Kilcoo Camp in the future," reads the statement.

"The camp and all involved have learned from, and are grateful for the frank and positive discussions that have led to this outcome," the public notice said. "Kilcoo remains committed to ensuring that staff, campers, and all those who spend time at Kilcoo in the future have a fulfilling and safe experience."

At this time, the parties to the litigation have no further comment.

Burton vows efficiency as county's warden

from page 1

for as long as she has.

"During our tenure, we've worked our way successfully through several really challenging pieces of legislation," she said. "And we've made numerous and some really good improvements and decisions during our time."

She lauded county staff and her council colleagues for the successes achieved.

Danielsen said she has known Burton for more than 16 years.

"While there have certainly been times when we saw things through a different lens, when asked how I would describe Dave it would be as a man who loves his family dearly, represents his community to the level best of his ability, and who would always respond to a call for help from a friend at a moment's notice," she said.

Burton is a veteran of the municipal and county political arena, having been mayor of Highlands East for 20 years. He has also been warden several times in those years. He has spent time as the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's (EORN) chairperson.

"I truly believe that Dave will listen to all of our concerns equally and when representing Haliburton County to the outside world, particularly on the EORN caucus," Danielsen said. "I fully trust that he will always represent the county fairly.

"He will advocate on our behalf and can be relied upon to forward the position that this council has agreed upon during our discussions and democratic decision-making process."

Fearrey said it didn't take Burton long before he became involved with municipal politics after he moved into the county in the 1990s. He characterized Burton as a man of honour.

"Dave has the ability to make a kind of a character of himself," Fearrey said. "He doesn't say something if he hasn't got something to say. He's very sincere."

With four lower tier municipalities represented on county council, Schell said everybody should spend time as warden. And she believed it was Carter's turn for the coming term.

"Bob has proven to be dedicated in his role and to our community," she said.

He's also involved with many groups and organizations with an interest in social welfare and housing.

Dailloux said Carter's example compels his colleagues to recognize the complexity that is inherent in matters that land before council.

"Bob excels at visualizing the connective tissue between topics that are typically assigned to distinct mental boxes and he regularly does so on the fly," she said. "He does his homework. He shows up prepared and he's not afraid to say things he knows won't be popular."

Carter is aware that a one per cent tax increase feels different to somebody who has to choose to put food on the table or pay the heat bill than it does for somebody who must decide which restaurant to go to.

"He has fire in his heart and urgency in his mind," Dailloux said.

Burton said he honours the county's unwavering spirit, commitment, aspirations, and enthusiasm.

"I see the results of our early mornings and our late nights and our sacrifices to prevail on the issues that we have overcome," he said.

He committed to creating a more efficient county.

"Haliburton County's permanent and seasonal population will continue to grow over the next decade, creating development pressures," Burton said. "We must consider enhancing community services and regulations while maintaining our identity.

"One way to do this might be to align some of our bylaws and our building codes from the low tier."

Carter thanked Danielsen for her years of service and leadership. Change is a constant in this world, he said.

"But I'm not sure it's really been changing at the rate and in the directions that it is changing today," he said. "We have here seen it in a number of different ways."

The population has significantly grown in the last six years but services have not been able to keep up. The services haven't kept up because there are too few people in the county to fill the service-delivery roles.

"That situation is exacerbated by the fact that we have not enough housing for those people," Carter said. "It's hard to hire somebody if they come here and they can't find a place to live."

The number of physicians in the county is half what it was and the same thing happens with other medical professionals.

"This situation with change is it's going to happen whether we like it or not," he said. "It can either happen to us or we can work with it to try to steer it in a way that makes it more acceptable to us."

Danielsen and Carter both declared their interest in running for the deputy warden position.

Winter is coming

There has been at least one inclement weather day per week for kids in Haliburton County since the snow started. With a combination of ice and snow accumulating over the season, residents are hopeful for a winter season that will benefit tourism into the new year. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

Local teacher recognized at provincial level

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Krista Patterson has grown up in the Haliburton Highlands, attending the local schools, and getting to know the families.

And now, she is giving back to those same schools that raised her.

The elementary school teacher was recently presented with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association achievement award, a provincial recognition which is designed to highlight an exemplary teacher who goes above and beyond for their school, their students, and their community as a whole. Patterson was the sole teacher celebrated amongst local schools.

"It was really a surprise," she shared, "I got an email over the summer saying I got the award, and I had never heard of it before, so it was a huge surprise."

Patterson now teaches a Grade 2 and 3 split class at Stuart Baker Elementary School (SBES), which is a role she settled into early this past fall. Prior to that, she was teaching at Cardiff Elementary School in Highlands East. "I've taught pretty much everything from kindergarten to Grade 3," she chuckled, noting that she has spent time in many of the schools across the county, before settling into a routine at Stuart Baker.

Krista Patterson, centre, was recently recognized for her contribution to the overall well-being of the school and community during her time teaching at Cardiff Elementary School. Patterson now teaches in Haliburton, and is looking forward to continuing to impact the community as a whole. /photo submitted

Her award was for the time she spent in Cardiff, and the beauty of this specific award is that it's a nod that comes from outside the school. "You are nominated by a local family or a community member for excellence in teaching," Patterson shared. "So it was really nice to be recognized for what we were doing out at Cardiff, at that school."

Patterson shared that it's with mixed emotions that she switched from Cardiff to Stuart Baker early in the year. "It's always hard to say goodbye to a school, to a community," she said, "but SBES was where I was a student, so it's a very full circle moment."

The young teacher graduated from teacher's college in 2014 before returning to her hometown of Haliburton, where she started work with SIRCH and the well-known School's Cool program, getting her foot in the door with the local school system before being offered a position as a kindergarten teacher, and gradually working through varying elementary levels at different local schools.

She now feels settled at SBES, and looks forward to continuing her work with the school and the community in Haliburton. "Being a local, I know a lot of things that families have to deal with, so I feel happy to know that families feel good about the work I do," she said. "Students are the most important part of the job, they're the number one priority, and I try my best to support these students and their families."

Dysart budget starts with 3.9% levy increase

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

As budgeting for next year gets underway, Dysart's treasury expects to close out this year with a financial surplus.

Barbara Swannell, the township's treasurer, presented the first draft of the 2025 municipal operating and capital budget during council's Dec. 13 meeting. The budget's next draft will be brought to council Jan. 10.

As of the first draft, municipal taxation revenue from businesses and residents is expected to garner about $12.7 million. That represents a tax levy increase of 3.9 per cent.

"We've had some exceptional property taxation come in this year, turning those building permits into revenues," she said. "We're looking at about an addition $227,000. We've done well with interest income on our bank accounts (for) an additional $74,000 as well."

There's also a potential surplus from maintenance work under the township's transportation budget.

Swannell recommended that council squirrel away the surplus money into a capital reserve for roads reconstruction and the general vehicle and equipment reserve fund.

"With the price of a tandem truck today, we definitely can use the extra money to support those purchases," she said.

The budget has a residential property tax rate increase of $13.20 for every $100,000 of assessed property value.

The commercial property tax rate increases by $19.57 per $100,000 assessment.

The tax rate for industrial properties increases by $22.68 per $100,000 assessed value.

Swannell walked council through the myriad of provincial and federal grants that will go toward various infrastructure development work. The municipality also has $3.9 million in other non-tax revenue such as user fees and rental revenue.

Municipal reserves are funds set aside by the township to cover unexpected expenses or future projects. Reserves provide a financial cushion that helps the municipality manage cash flow, respond to emergencies, and plan for long-term financial stability.

By the end of next year, the reserves balance is projected to about $2.4 million.

Expenditures include operational costs such as salaries, equipment materials, and contract services, as well as capital funding for long-term projects and investments. Total 2025 expenditures are $27.3 million. Of that tally, $8,101,930 goes toward capital projects and $19,170,371 covers operational expenses.

"The OPP finally ratified their agreement for 2023 to 2026, so now we're starting to see the ripple effects of that agreement," Swannell said. "There were substantial increases for OPP policing costs."

The tab for policing has increased next year to $443,000. Swannell said that's comprised of a 2023 reconciliation of $126,000 and then there's an additional $300,000 for the current services.

"That is a substantial increase," she said. "And the province did recognize that a lot of municipalities are in the same boat."

That increase represents a 20.6 per cent increase for policing in one year.

A single year.

The province has agreed to provide a one-time temporary relief for some of that cost increase. For Dysart, Swannell said that mitigation will be about $365,000.

"But we're still short about $80,000," she said.

"So what's that going to mean for next year?" said Coun. Pat Casey.

"Well, you're going to be looking at absorbing that $300,000 increase for one year into the municipal levy," Swannell said. "And that's about just over three per cent on 2025."

She said it's something for council to consider.

"We don't have to take 100 per cent of the grant money in one year," Swannell said. "Maybe you want to stage it over two years to smooth the tax increase."

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Violence against rural women is greater than those in urban settings

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

The increase in incidents of violence against women in Ontario disturbs groups that provide services to women in Haliburton County.

And county council heard when it met Dec. 11 that it's a trend that should concern everybody who has a daughter, a wife, a girlfriend, a mother. Everybody who knows a woman.

In a period of 104 weeks recently, 124 women in Ontario were murdered by somebody they loved, said Kim Dolan, executive director at the Haliburton Peterborough YWCA.

"It's more than one woman a week and, frankly, one woman ever is too many," she said. "And that really compels us to take action."

She said Haliburton County comprises more than 4,000 square kilometres of land and lakes. That's about five people per square kilometre.

And therein lies an important fact to remember, she said.

"About the distance in geography and how isolating it is for the women we serve," she said.

According to Statistics Canada, there are 5,580 women in Haliburton County between the ages of 15 and 64. Of those, about 2,870 women are older than 65.

"And we know that 30 per cent of women over the age of 15 experience gender-based violence," Dolan said. "It happens to our girls, our friends, our mothers, our aunties and we've worked with many women who are 70 and older.

"In this county we can conservatively estimate that over 2,500 women have or are experiencing violence."

Rural realities are significant barriers for women with and without children. Those realities are social and physical isolation, challenges with transportation and communication, and often easy access to firearms.

There are issues related to income and a livable wage, she said.

"We've heard stories from women for years that when their abusive husband or boyfriend leaves for work during the day, the phones go with him whether it's a landline or a cellphone," Dolan said.

Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and sexual violence are prevalent forms of gender-based violence against women, said Brittany MacMillan, the executive director at the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre in Peterborough. The centre and the YWCA have linked up and will provide supports to Haliburton County in January.

The violence includes many types of harm caused by somebody with whom the woman has a relationship, MacMillan said.

"It does not discriminate and can result in immediate long lasting health, social, and economic consequences," she said.

Nycole Duncan, the Women's Centre and Haliburton Emergency Rural SafeSpace executive director, said the violence can happen anywhere. And there are many reasons why women in rural and remote settings are at increased risk.

"Traditional beliefs about gender roles, the permanence of marriage—until death do us part—shame, blame from themselves or from others, and secrecy," Duncan said.

Incidents of gender-based violence against women in rural areas that are reported to police are 75 per cent higher than those in urban areas, she said.

Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam were murdered in September 2015 by a man with whom each of the women had a past relationship. None of them knew about his history of violence towards women.

Not at first, anyway.

Each of the women thought the former relationship was in the past. And their murders highlighted the critical failures in systems meant to protect victims of intimate partner violence.

A coroner's inquest was held to investigate circumstances that led to three femicides on the same day. It resulted in a series of recommendations aimed at preventing future violence and improving protections for those at risk.

In total, 86 recommendations for change were made in June 2022. Among the top recommendations was to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic.

Change was recommended to oversight and accountability, system approaches, collaboration and communication, funding, education and training, measures addressing perpetrators of intimate partner violence, intervention, and safety.

Dolan said her organization gathers information about women who are the victims of intimate femicide. That pool of information is limited to what's covered by newspapers.

"There isn't one location that collects the data," she said.

Incidents of women murdered declined a little from 2018 to 2020. But then the COVID-19 pandemic happened and the women's centre heard from women from rural areas especially that the violence happened more frequently.

"And that each violent incident was more dramatic and more harmful," Dolan said.

The past two years saw another spike in incidents.

"Higher than we had seen in a very, very long time," she said. "The trend line is disturbing."

Police forces use the term homicide, but that's specific to men, she said. The term femicide speaks about the impact on women.

Duncan said women are at greatest risk from those they know and often live with and love.

"Being at home is the least safe place to be," Duncan said.

Particularly for women living in northern rural communities rather than southern rural or urban settings, according to Statistics Canada information.

"And we are northern," Duncan said.

Intimate partner violence is an epidemic and as many as 95 Ontario municipalities have formally declared it as such. The provincial government has yet to make such a declaration.

"We do remain hopeful," said Dolan. "I know that there's been lots of letters and lots of support in asking our provincial government (to declare an epidemic)."

Councillor Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, suggested the term intimate partner violence could apply to male victims and all sexual orientations as it does to women.

Dolan acknowledged that the term applies to women, gender diverse individuals, people who identify as 2SLGBTQ, and men.

"The current data that we have is that about 80 per cent of victims of intimate partner violence are women," she said.

Often when a woman murders a man with whom they've been intimate, it follows years of abuse.

"Women tend to be motivated more by trying to save their own lives and the lives of their children," Dolan said.

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New family physician to serve Kinmount, Haliburton County

The Kinmount District Health Services Foundation (KDHSF), along with Kawartha Lakes Health Care Initiative (KLHCI), Haliburton County and Peterborough County (Trent Lakes) is pleased to announce that Dr. M. Van Der Leden will be joining the healthcare team at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC).

Dr. Van Der Leden grew up in Eastern Ontario and is returning from the U.S., where she has practiced medicine for several years. Dr. Van Der Leden plans to join Dr. Ponraja in seeing patients at the KDHC starting in early February 2025. She notes that she is looking forward to returning to Canada and to serving patients from the region at the Kinmount District Health Centre.

"On behalf of the County of Haliburton, I want to extend a sincere welcome to Dr. Van Der Leden and express my enthusiasm that she has chosen this region to work as a family physician," said Haliburton County Warden Dave Burton. "Thanks to the hard work of the physician recruitment team, residents of Haliburton County and surrounding communities will gain better access to local health care."

KDHSF appreciates the assistance of the three local family doctor recruiters: Lori Richey (Peterborough County), Wendy Welch (Haliburton County) and Cindy Snider (City of Kawartha Lakes).

Dr. M. Van Der Leden will be joining the healthcare team at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC). /submitted

Chamber optimistic about year ahead, despite deficit

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce (HHCOC) held their 63rd AGM on Dec. 12 via Zoom. The short and sweet meeting included highlights of the past year, as well as projects for the year ahead.

"From a business perspective, it's been a challenging year," said president of the Chamber, Mark Bell. He noted that high interest rates and poor winter weather played a part in many businesses facing financial difficulties. "But it looks like we're off to a better start this winter," he noted.

Amanda Conn, the executive director of the Chamber, dove into some highlights from the past year, including the annual Chamber Gala, which she claimed had more attendees than previous years, as well as the newly launched shoulder season passport program, which she indicated had brought folks into businesses during the quieter times of the year. "As a chamber, we really put a strong foot forward," she noted.

Another highlight of the year for HHCOC was moving locations from the Village Barn to the newly opened LINK building, which resides with HCDC on County Road 21. Conn believes that the new location has allowed for networking opportunities to happen organically; something that was not an option at their former lodging.

The executive director also noted that HHCOC dedicated time to community initiatives such as short term rentals, shoreline by-laws, and attainable housing, but did not dive into the logistics of the projects.

"This was a little bit of an investment year," said Conn, referencing that her primary area of focus was getting HHCOC technology up to date. "We've worked to improve our technologies. We've had a lot of email challenges over the years." She shared that while the website also needs improvement, that will be a future chamber project.

Conn claimed that there has not been "a gigantic change" in the budget this year, with a deficit of over 2000 as the bottom line for the past fiscal year, between April 2023, and March 2024. She has spent the majority of the year flying solo as director for HHCOC, as the chamber community manager left in May of this past year. Conn shared that she has been trying to fill that role, but has run into some challenges in the hiring process.

The meeting went on to welcome new members to HHCOC, including Ommmh/Eat, Studio PK Residential Designs, Mulligans Pub and Patio, Ball Real Estate, The Post House Haliburton Highlands, and Kacaba Cottage Care.

The Chamber also welcomed new directors to the team, including Xavier Masse from Fleming College, Chelsea Adamson from Sweat Social, and Harsha Manani of Lakeview Motel and Resort. "These are some real leaders in our community," said Bell.

Tinsel and turtles

Callum McGee, 5, poses for a photo with a turtle at the Turtle Guardians open house last Saturday. /Adam Frisk, special to the *Echo*

Merch is pictured at the Turtle Guardians open house.

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A beautiful Saturday morning trail ride at Haliburton Forest. /KAREN LONDON Staff

The longest night of the year

emily stonehouse

Editorial

PLEASE NOTE that this editorial contains depictions of domestic violence that some readers may be sensitive to.

There are two separate stories in this edition about violence against women. That wasn't planned, this is just what's happening . One, written by myself, which outlines the vague details around an accused sexual predator at Kilcoo Camp, and another by James Matthews, who noted that gender-based violence is at an all-time high in our community.

Two weeks ago, I wrote a story and an editorial on the Montreal Massacre; a senseless killing, all because they were women.

I've written editorials around the gender wage gap, around skewed parental expectations, around women's rights when a convict somehow finds a place in one of the highest positions of power in the world.

So when I sat down this week, I tried to think of something different. Maybe the ongoing deer debate? The amount of snow we've been getting? Upcoming holiday plans?

Was there something warm and fuzzy I could focus on to try to add to the festivities?

But my mind kept going back to the women. The ones who are spending this holiday season navigating their trauma. The ones trying to repress feelings and memories. The ones who aren't here with us anymore. Because they were women.

On December 21, 2016, Winter Solstice, I came back to Haliburton. And yes, part of my story is that I am a local at heart, but in reality, I spent a decade traveling around, place to place, seeking a home, a community, that had some semblance to the one I grew up in.

I had no intention of calling Haliburton home for forever. I was appreciative of the time, the heart, the soul of this place that raised me, but I felt I was supposed to be elsewhere, like many people in their early 20s.

But on the longest night of the year, I returned to the place that was my former home, and little did I know, my future home.

I came back with nothing but a backpack; fleeing a situation of domestic violence from another province.

I don't remember flying home. Don't remember the drive from the airport to my parents house. Don't remember walking through the door. Don't remember falling asleep. I was in a frozen state of fight or flight; waiting to be caught, waiting to be found. The vulnerable safety of home felt like it could be dashed from beneath my feet the moment I let my guard down.

With support and nurturing from my family, my friends, my therapist, and the community as a whole, I found my home once again. It's taken years, and while I have continued to wrap and bandage the emotional wounds, every so often, one slices open again; a jarring scar etched into my very core.

And I am one of the lucky ones. I got out. I found a place in the world again. Built a life, a family, a career, a home. Were it not for the community that raised me, I would not be where I am today. On the longest night of the year, I found my home again. And since then, the days have started getting brighter. One day at a time.

Many others are not so lucky. So this Christmas, they are in our thoughts. If you or someone you know is experiencing any sort of gender-based violence, there is 24-hour support through our local YWCA. They can be reached at 1-800-461-7656, or via text at 705-991-0110.

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Not the spirit

sharon lynch

Our road Down

THE KITCHEN looked as though it had been hit by a white explosion. Flour covered the counter and had overflowed onto the floor. The sink was stuffed with pots, bowls and implements of various kinds so that if Irene wanted to run the water, it would have a hard time finding the drain.

She was not a fan of seasonal baking. Christmas cookies, cakes, squares and pies could disappear for all Irene cared. No special puddings, fancy icings or gooey candies were on her to-do list in December. Instead, she longed for lazy afternoons by the woodstove or an invigorating trek through the snowy bush. But stuck indoors with recipes that seldom produced the promised results was nothing more than an exercise in frustration for this baker.

Her son told her she had a bad attitude to the festive season. Easy for him to say as his wife did all the preparations and gift buying. He just had to show up when and where he was told and enjoy the fruits of everyone else's labour. And let's be honest here – it is almost always the female of the human species who does the legwork at this time of year.

Why just that morning Irene's husband Joe had announced he'd love the special snack mix his mother used to make every Christmas and could she get the recipe? Her reply was in the negative, punctuated with a slam of the cutlery drawer. At the sound, he had looked up from his reading and wondered what had gotten into her. Well it certainly wasn't the Christmas spirit, he thought. Then he went back to his reading.

At this point Irene looked around at the disaster that was the kitchen and decided to walk away from it all. Temporarily of course. Telling Joe she was going out, she strapped on her no-slip boots, grabbed the dog leash and headed outdoors with Herman the boxer. A nice long walk in the fresh air always helped her cranky moods.

If this day couldn't elevate her spirits, then she was in trouble, she thought. Because it was picture-perfect, more like a Christmas card than a walk around the village. Last night's snowfall had turned the trees into white lace and smoothed the ground into a rippling carpet of perfection. Red, blue and black twittered around her birdfeeders as she and Herman decided which direction they wanted to take.

Once chosen, they started walking uphill towards the back of the village. There was a spot up there Irene liked to visit where she could look out over the entire scene of buildings, roads and waterways. She could see the lake just starting to freeze along the edges. While Herman sniffed any and everything within reach of his nose, Irene gazed at the miniature houses, stores and vehicles below. It looked like the snowy scene her mother used to set up in the family room when she was a child.

The thought reminded her of those childhood Christmases. Were they really as special as she remembered or had the years softened the edges of her memory? The aroma of baking would waft from that kitchen, but to look at the tidy counter and sink you would never know of the chaos formerly there.

Irene's mother had been a true homemaker. She made the house a home.

She never had to think about hordes of people living in small tents pitched in city parks. Almost constant pleas for donated food and firewood were unheard of back in the day. Death by drug overdose happened in back alleys not on sidewalks while pedestrians hurried back to their offices. Everything was different then.

Or was it? As she looked down at the Christmas card world below her, Irene was reminded of the good will that still existed at this time of year.

Yes greed was rampant, but so was compassion and generosity. Irene just had to look for it. Like Herman who never gave up searching the snowy ground for tasty surprises, Irene needed to pay attention. She just didn't want to do any more baking.

points of view

Seeing is believing

I WAS SKIMMING through a bunch of Internet headlines this morning when I saw one that intrigued me. It read, When I reached the age of 44, I became invisible to men. Much to my surprise, below the headline was a photo of the author – I'm assuming just before her 44th birthday.

My first thought was "Oh my gosh! There's still hope!"

You see, I've wanted to possess the power of invisibility for decades now – and, sadly, apart from that one time in high school gym class when people were picking basketball teams, I was never able to achieve it.

In fact, until I read this headline, I had given up on invisibility altogether. Instead, I accepted that I was doomed to shovel the driveway all winter once again. Worse still, I had all but abandoned my bucket list goal of being invisible on an empty elevator and making loud fart noises the minute two people stepped in.

Sometimes, it's just healthier to let go of your dreams.

steve galea

Loon Tales

Even now that this woman's experience has reignited my hope, I am still not holding my breath. You see I have come to realize that invisibility is really a young person's game. My theory is the older you get, the less effective invisibility is.

For instance, I doubt it would do me, or any of my 60-something year old friends any good at all. That's because, once you hit a certain age, you make all sorts of noises, whether you want to or not. You can't truly be invisible, if you are groaning and creaking every time you move.

Also, we older folks can't help but give unsolicited advice, regardless of whether we know the person or not. This would also compromise your invisibility.

Which is to say, people might not be able to see me, but they will eventually be able to triangulate my location – and then tell Jenn, who would promptly hand me a snow shovel.

With my luck, after I was located, Jenn would probably give me a lecture about how rude it is to be invisible in the house when her book club arrives too. And then, when I comply and make myself visible, I'd get another earful about how inappropriate it is to be in the living room in my underwear as her book club leaves.

This is just as well.

Of all the superpowers, invisibility is probably the least socially acceptable and hardest to justify. There are not many politically correct uses for it. Sure, you could use it to dodge people you are trying to avoid, but you could do the same thing by immediately saying, "Hey, want to see photos of my nephew's wedding? I've got hundreds of them!"

The only other reasons for being invisible are nefarious: to spy on people, to sneak into places you shouldn't be, or to use it briefly enough to make a mirror salesman believe he has a faulty product.

Frankly, invisibility is kind of creepy.

That's why I was pleased, after further reading, to understand that the article wasn't suggesting that the woman was literally invisible to men. Instead, it revealed that she thought the opposite sex acted as if she were invisible.

Who knows if that really true? But, if I were her, I'd spend a lot of time riding elevators…

pic *of the* past

In this photo we see Olive and Bill Cowen at Christmas, the parents of Mae Francis (nee Cowen) of Haliburton. Submitted by Paul Cowen

West Guilford charm

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754–2278

No one theme but a smattering of this and that. Canoe FM new: Cathy McIlurray. Cathy's answer on the phone tells you it's "Mac's Mansion" and you supply her with the item or perhaps the quick recipe for the day.

It would be sad news that someone you knew and loved has died such as Neil Reynolds, husband of Sheila Brice. Sheila was the granddaughter of Earls Uncle Andy and Aunt Shirley Sisson. They were so fondly remembered from Post Office days.

On Sunday November 24th two of our St George's members who have served in the Anglican church as priests for some years are now designated by the diocese as honourary assistants. They are Rev. Canon David Barker and the Rev. Margaret Milne.

Local voices heard in Melissa Stephens Highland Festival Singers included Christopher Chumbley, Norris Turner, and Karen Armstrong.

Of special note is our *Echo* publisher, David Zilstra of Nila Road which is also the road and home of Cathy Mac.

We continue to be proud of our councilors Carm Sawyer and Barry Boice as they work on our behalf in town council.

County inks 1.5% tax increase for next year

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Next year's budget illustrates how Haliburton County recognizes the need for efficiency at the upper tier.

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said the cost of operating the county represents a little more than one per cent of the tax levy.

"I think we do a very progressive budget," said Dyke. "We work very hard in prioritizing our funding into areas that we think are really impactful while recognizing the demands on the lower tiers as well as the ratepayers across the county."

Andrea Robinson, the county's corporate services director, delivered the second draft of next year's spending plan when county council met Dec. 11.

The 2025 operating and capital budget has a $24,985,742 total levy requirement which is an increase of $1,728,785 from 2024.

That increase has been aided by a 1.45 per cent growth in assessment.

The 1.5 per cent capital levy means a total increase of $15.97 for every $100,000 of assessed residential property value.

Of that $1.7 million spending increase over 2024, almost 80 per cent of outside the county's control, Robinson said.

Thirty-seven per cent goes to transfers, 29 per cent is catch-up for loss of funding, 17 per cent is brought by capital growth, 10 per cent is due to inflation, and 6.3 per cent is for operating growth base budget adjustment.

All that means 1.13 per cent of the 4.8 per cent tax rate increase is for operating and capital increases.

It's anticipated that the county will end 2025 with about $8.9 million in reserves, which includes $3.7 million for committed purchases.

By increasing the dedicated capital levy to 1.5 per cent in 2025, it would result in a capital reserve of about $6.13 million by 2035.

"It's important to recognize the decisions that you're making with the 2025 budget and how it affects following years," Robinson said.

There are about $400,000 in identified items that could affect the operation budget in 2026 and $385,000 that could impact that year's capital budget.

Some of the factors that should be brought to council's attention for potential impacts in 2026 and beyond include $74,400 to fully fund new paramedic supervisor positions, $16,500 in annual fees for new growth items such as Tracmatics and Questica software upgrades, $130,500 in new debt payments, $74,000 continued decreased funding from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, and a $385,000 structure program.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said he isn't an advocate for more spending. But residents' average age is older than 70 years.

"And we're not attracting younger people because they can't leave their jobs and come to work and do this (council) job," he said. "And it is a job now. It's not like it was."

He said he wanted to know how Haliburton County's compensation for councillors compares to other municipalities and upper tier councils.

Coun. Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said 75 per cent of council are seniors, which is not representative of residents despite having been elected.

"Having thought about that and the fact that normally if there's any consideration given to an increase for councils, it's done for the incoming council," she said.

If an increase were to be considered, the possibility of phasing it in over a number of years should also be considered, she said.

"So that there's less impact on the budget overall," Danielsen said.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said he agreed with Fearrey but implementing an increase in phases would be difficult.

"One of the notions of why we would have an increase is to try to attract people to the job," Carter said. "And we almost need to have that determined up front at the time of the next election."

For the most part, serving on a council is no longer a part-time job, he said.

"And if we're going to ask for people to dedicate all of their time to this and do it right, I think that they have to be compensated for it," Carter said.

Danielsen said many people don't realize that councillors don't earn a livable wage.

Council approved next year's budget and gave the green light for a review of council compensation.

A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol Service was held at Essonville Historic Church outside of Wilberforce on Dec. 15. The holiday tradition drew folks from all over the region to join in on classic carols that were heard through the historic building. TIM YANO/ Staff photographer

St. George's Anglican Church
617 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Please join us for the upcoming Christmas services

Festival of Lessons and Carols
December 22nd at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th, Carol Singing at 7:15 pm
Service at 7:30 pm

Christmas Day Service
December 25th at 10:30 am

First Sunday after Christmas Service
December 29th at 10:30 am

New Year's Day Service
January 1st at 10:30 am

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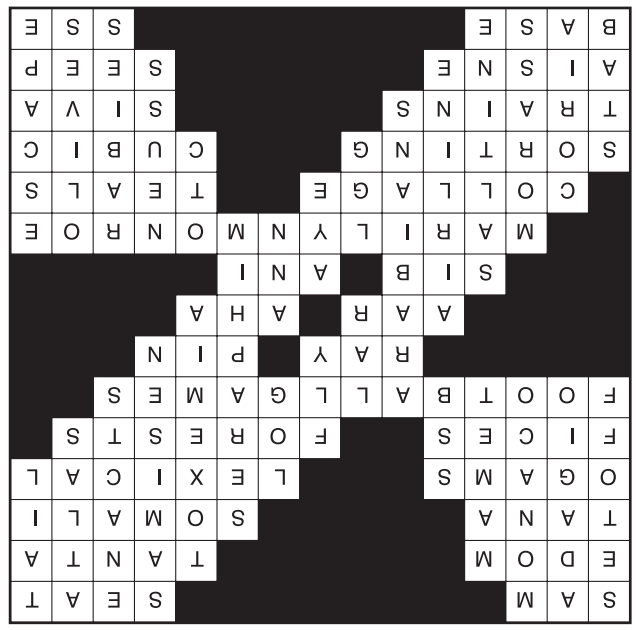

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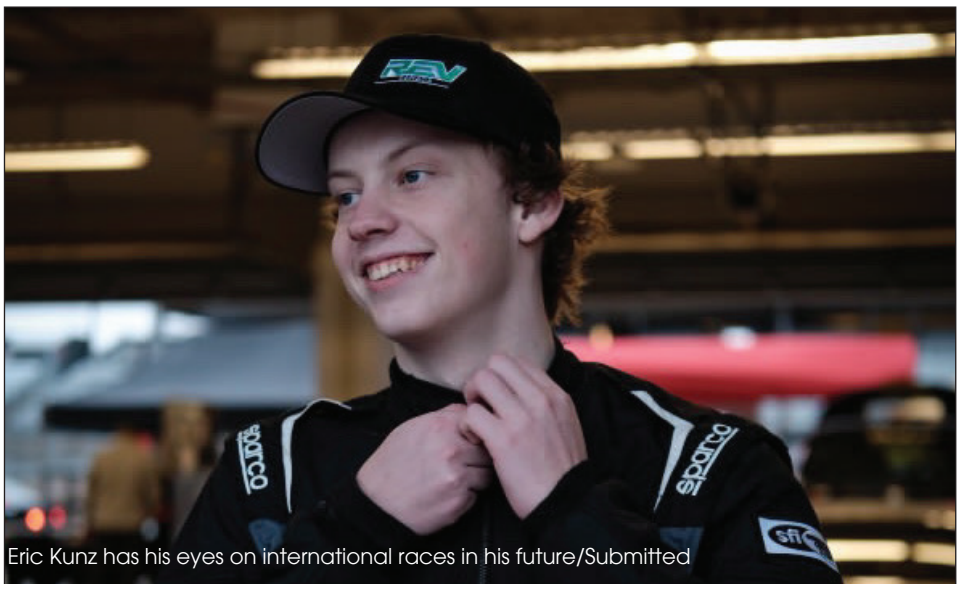
Giving back and never giving up; Kunz races worldwide

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor


Eric Kunz has his eyes on international races in his future/Submitted

What started as a little hobby to get Eric Kunz out of the house, has since turned into a lifelong passion and career in the racing world.

"It's been a crazy ride," said Kunz, the 2024 Canadian TCA Champion, "but I've been very fortunate along this journey."

The 21-year-old racer, who spends his summers cottaging on Soyers Lake in Haliburton, found his need for speed at the age of 17. "I was spending a lot of time in front of a computer," recalled Kunz, sharing his experiences around the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. "So my mom said she would support me, no matter what I chose to do."

Kunz laughed that he tried to call her bluff by saying he wanted to take up skydiving, which she quickly shut down. "So I thought of the second most dangerous thing I could do, and said I wanted to race cars."

To his surprise, though, he instantly fell in love with the sport. The young racer started his career in Go-Karts, which he spent his first year experimenting with, and learning the ways of the road. By 2021, he was competing in kart races regionally, before being offered opportunities to go to Florida to race through the United States.

Kunz spent the first part of 2022 exploring the U.S. through various races, before being invited to try his first formal race car. "I had just gotten my G2 drivers licence," he chuckled, "and right away, I was put in a car."

"It was very, very overwhelming. It was the fastest track in North America," he said. "It's a high-speed, crazy roller coaster of a track. It still doesn't feel quite real."

But Kunz had been bitten by the racing bug. "After that, I started applying for my racing license, which I got, before I got a call from the FIA."

The FIA, or Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, is the governing body of motor sport around the world. The organization had spotted Kunz, and offered him a spot to race an electric Formula 4 car in a three-week racing trip. The trip started in Belgium, before he was whisked off to multiple endurance races in Texas, and then Mexico City. His race in Texas was his second time ever in a real race car, and he was up against 90 other drivers.

By 2023, just three short years after diving into the world of racing, Kunz participated in the Sports Car Championship in Canada. He came in second place, losing only to a racer who had been driving cars longer than Kunz had been alive.

But this didn't slow him down. Kunz set the pedal to the metal to train for the past year, and in 2024, he came out on top, winning first in the championship, and setting his eyes on an international prize next. "I want to race in the World Endurance Championship," he said. "That's the ultimate goal."

While it's been a whirlwind ride, Kunz is humbly aware of how far he has come, and everyone who has helped him get to this place. Now that he is being noticed around the world, the young driver wants to use his platform to help others.

Kunz was born with a rare condition called Kaposiform Lymphangiomatosis, or KLA for short. With the condition, the vessels that carry lymphatic fluid throughout the body expand and interconnect. These abnormal lymphatic vessels invade, and cause damage to surrounding tissue, bones, and organs. "I was a Sick Kids (hospital) patient for most of my life," said Kunz. "I've been dealing with chronic pain every day for most of my life."

He shared that the ongoing pain resulted in his own mental health taking a nosedive; particularly in his teenage years. "It was hard to watch my friends go and do things that I just couldn't do," he said. "I really struggled with depression around that."

But Kunz is acutely aware of his support system, and how certain people have held his hand while he has discovered his passion for racing. He gives credit to his healthcare team, both for his physical and mental health, as well as his family, friends, and coaches.

And now, he's ready to give back. Kunz became a Sick Kids Ambassador in 2022, offering kids the unique experience of joining him at the Honda Indie race in Toronto. "That was a cool experience for me," he said. "I'm so thankful I had a chance to give back."

Recently, the young racer has joined a program called Youth Speak, which focuses on public appearances at schools to discuss mental health, addictions, and support. "I just had so much support growing up," he said, "and I really want to pay it forward."

While Kunz is still navigating the everyday pains that accompany his condition; both physically and mentally, he is optimistic about his journey in the racing world. "I still deal with the pain," he shared, "but I've found new ways to manage it. I found racing as a way to cope."

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year from the staff of the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times

Paul Banelopoulos
Amanda Gonyea
Karen London
Jennifer McEathron
James Matthews
Stacey Potalivo
Reed Sacharoff
Laura Smith
Thomas Smith
Emily Stonehouse
David Zilstra

The offices of the Haliburton Echo and Minden Times will be closed from Wednesday, December 25 to January 1

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

A sweet Christmas
Adaline Vibert and her mom, Danielle, enjoy some cotton candy from Haliburton Rotary during their annual Christmas Party at the Haliburton Legion. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

Harlow Rickard checks out her face painting by Pockets the Clown on Dec. 13 at the Haliburton Rotary Christmas Party.

Heather Roberts, along with Halley, Harper, and Hayden, take a moment to smile with Santa.

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Sir Sam's brings in new equipment and ownership

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

As I talk to Dave Bishop, Sir Sam's General Manager, he eagerly informs me that Sir Sam's snow guns are blowing, their groomers are running, and they have prepared three runs that opened on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Bishop is hopeful for prime skiing conditions this year, unlike the challenging conditions they faced last winter.

Bishop is new to the General Manager position, but a different Bishop family opened Sir Sam's Ski area in 1965. Around August of this year, Sir Sam's changed ownership to a group of shareholders. Prior to the change of ownership, Sir Sam's ordered new snow making equipment, groomers, and reestablished their cafeteria to enhance their food prices and speed of service.

Sir Sam's offers Canadian Adaptive Snowsports (CADS) programs at their ski hills. CADS supports people living with visual impairments, physical impairments, and cognitive impairments and removes barriers for anyone wishing to participate in snowsports. Their teachings increase diversity and show instructors how to treat individuals with respect. There are four instructors at Sir Sam's that facilitate the CADS program. Bishop says that there are around 10 local customers that utilize the CADS program and that the CADS program is available to any visitor that requests it. Sir Sam's has also reestablished their Pony Lift near where the CADS is offered to increase accessibility and designated a section of hill to the program.

With a few runs open, Sir Sam's Ski and Ride is optimistic about their season ahead. /file

Sir Sam's is offering Holiday Camps throughout December. Available camps include ski camps, snowboard camps, alpine racing, beginner lessons, and private lessons.

On Dec. 21, Sir Sam's will be hosting their annual Tree and Tower Lighting event. On this day, Sir Sam's is also hosting a Santa Ski Day. For anyone that comes to the event wearing a holiday themed costume such as Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, etc, they will receive a free lift ticket for the day. Sir Sam's will also be hosting live entertainment, a face painter, drink specials, and an ugly Christmas sweater party.

This will be the first year that Sir Sam's will be lighting up their tower for the holidays.

"For me, the holiday season is all about family and friends and creating great memories together," said Bishop. "And our goal is to provide an exceptional experience for those memories to take place."

Bishop says that prices of lift tickets have not gone up since last year. The original Bishop family is still heavily involved with Sir Sam's, and see the change in ownership and management as a beneficial change to the business. Bishop assures that "with the change in ownership and management, things are looking very promising and positive."

The first day of Sir Sam's Skiing season was on Saturday, Dec. 14. Sir Sam's aims to open 100 per cent of their hills and operations by Dec. 20.

"As long as Mother Nature cooperates," said Bishop. With how quickly the winter began in the Haliburton Highlands this year, Bishop is hopeful that the weather and snow will contribute to a highly successful winter season. Their crew is prepared, their equipment is prepared, and Bishop is excited to hit the ground running in his role as general manager.

Bishop has reported that their opening day was highly successful and is very excited for this winter season.

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~ Douglas Walker,
Artistic Producer ~

For our 25th Anniversary season the Highlands Summer Festival presents five glorious productions designed to rekindle your love for live theatre. Story-telling, to delight, entertain and fascinate, all five productions for only $175....it is almost like getting one show for free.

The summer season opens with the satirical but a little off-the-wall musical, ***Urinetown***. It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical. Urinetown is a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives as the plucky citizens fight back. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis, the cast makes its case against the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, and municipal politics with music, humour, and boycotts even as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.
Opening July 1st through to the 8th.

Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more – ***The Fitzgeralds*** have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include The Fitzgeralds in this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.
Opens July 9th for 3 performances.

For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning ***Salt-Water Moon***. We chose this quintessential Canadian play by David French to kick off the inaugural HSF season. Set in Newfoundland eight years after the end of the First World War, this is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of Salt-Water Moon resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.
Opening July 15th running to the 22nd.

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, ***Drinking Habits***. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Drinking Habits, by Tom Smith: wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves. (This production contains mature themes. Recommended for ages 13 and up. There is no official rating system for live theatre. We encourage you to use your judgment based on your child's age and maturity level.)
Opening July 27th to August 1st.

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Bringing joy at Christmas, one satchel at a time

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's the time of year for magic and kindness, and that's something that's clear during St. George's Anglican Church's annual St. Nick's Satchel Campaign.

For the past eight years, the "Creative Devotions", a sewing group that is a part of the church, gathers together to create Christmas satchels - sweetly created little bags - which are filled with goodies for older kids, and donated directly to the Youth Hub in Haliburton.

"We saw a need there," said Louise Sisson, the People's Warden from St. George's Anglican Church. "It was something that was started by Reverend Ken McClure. He was very much a storyteller, and loved the story of St. Nick."

The legend of St. Nick started around 350 AD, with a Greek Orthodox bishop named Nicholas, who heard that a local townsman was struggling, and had to sell his three beautiful daughters as a result. Nicholas went to the man's home late one evening, and threw a small satchel of gold into a window. The gold was enough to save the man and his daughters from poverty.

The story has been woven and evolved into the background for the modern-day Santa Claus; a regular gift giver and bringer of joy.

Each year, the Creative Devotions of St. George's put together 50 small satchels for youth in the community, and include three gift cards, an orange, and some treats inside the colourful bags. They are then donated to Point in Time's Youth Hub in Haliburton, where Mary Sisson, the Hub manager, disperses them to individuals in need.

Mary Sisson, left, and Louise Sisson, with the satchels that were handmade to give out to the youth of the community. /Photo submitted

The Youth Hub is "a one stop shop for youth aged 12 to 25," shared Mary. "It is an inclusive, positive and welcoming space where youth can access a broad range of services and supports delivered in a respectful and inclusive fashion."

The space offers drop-in programming, skills and well-being activities, tutoring, support around mental health, substance use and addictions, housing, sexual health, and employment, to name a few offerings. They also provide transportation for trips, recreation, and services across the county.

Last year, the Youth Hub served 215 individual youth for formal services, with 1945 visits for skills and wellbeing activities. This fiscal year, from April until now, the Hub has seen 1932 visits for activities, and is supporting roughly 47 youth with food security support.

Hub manager Mary Sisson shared that the satchels provided by St. George's are a bright spot for many of the youth in the community, particularly as that age range is often overlooked during many holiday campaigns. "For older youth who may be on their own, or don't have a connection to family, to get this gift is so special," she said. "We are just so grateful for this partnership over the past few years."

Louise Sisson is proud of the hard work that the church has done for the community hub, and shows no signs of slowing down when it comes to supporting the youth. "The hub looks after them," she said. "It gives them a place to go after school, a place to listen to music, play games, and be a safe space. It's just such an awesome place to have in our community."

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub is located at 12 Dysart Avenue. More information can be found at www.youthhubs.ca.

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HALIBURTON BIA

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Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food
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Paper gift tags
Paper gift bags (remove string)
Christmas cards & envelopes
Cardboard rolls
Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage
Metallic or foil wrapping paper
Ribbons, bows, tape
Styrofoam shipping block
Bubble wrap
Broken ornaments
Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve)
8 AM to 12:30 PM: West Guilford
9 AM to 12:30 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: Haliburton

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Thursday, December 26, 2024 (Boxing Day)
10 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton, West Guilford
12 noon to 5 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve)
8 AM to 12:30 PM: West Guilford
9 AM to 12:30 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: Haliburton

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day)
Closed: All Dysart Landfills

Thursday, January 2, 2025
8 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton
9 AM to 2 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay
Closed: West Guilford

Municipality of Dysart et al
www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

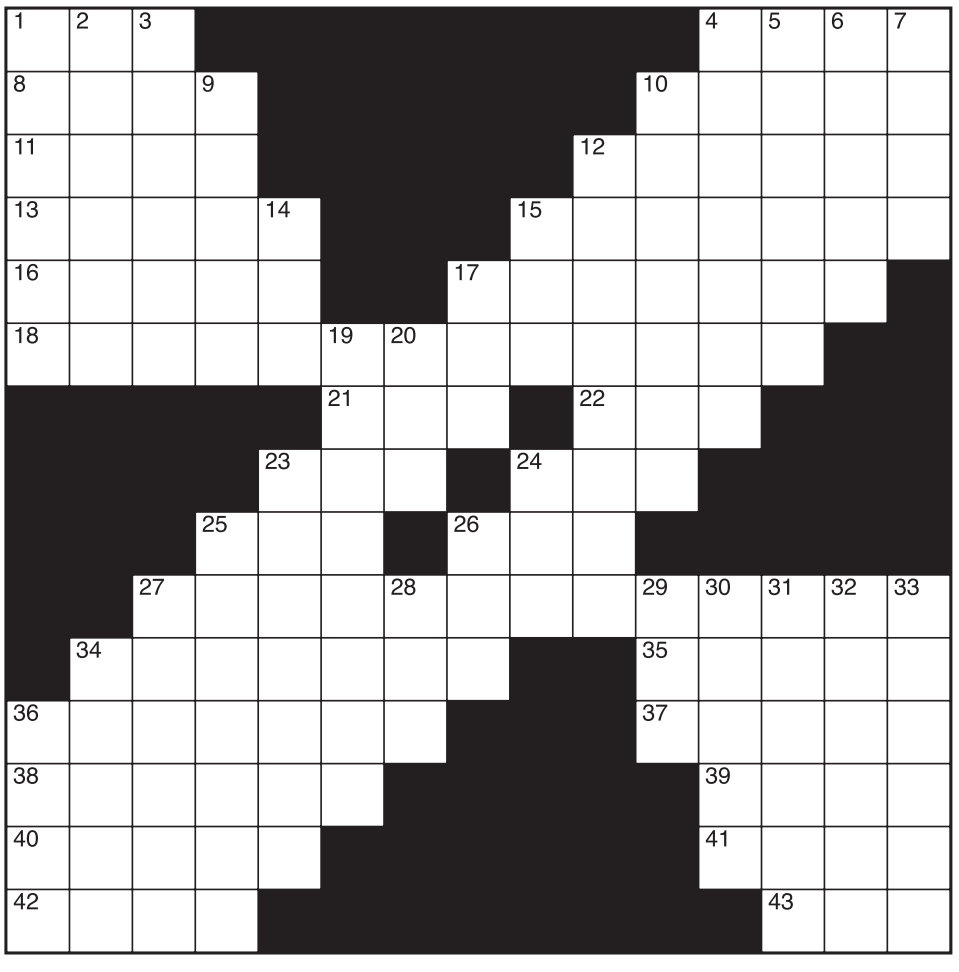
Wrap it up - with a bow!

Students at Haliburton School of Art and Design in Haliburton proudly showcased their semester's worth of work during the Wrap it Up show on Dec. 14 at the college. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Adrien Fera of Waterloo stands next to one of her paintings from her class this past semester during the Wrap it Up show.

Sydney Sutherland sits with the pieces she made during the semester in ceramic classes. Sutherland plans on staying with the school to study glass blowing next semester.

Jaz Hamilton with one of her plants she "can't kill", which are made of felted materials.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Americans' "uncle"
4. Chair
8. Ancient kingdom
10. Egyptian city
11. Alaskan glacier
12. One from Somalia
13. Ancient alphabets
15. Relating to vocabulary
16. Small mongrels
17. Natural settings
18. Weekend entertainments
21. Line from which light seemingly streams
22. Your own private code
23. Swiss river
24. Satisfaction
25. A person's brother or sister
26. Folk singer DiFranco
27. The Blonde Bombshell
34. Kids' school project
35. Bluish greens
36. Classifying
37. Cube-shaped
38. Choo-choos
39. Indian religious god of dissolution
40. French department
41. Leak into gradually
42. Foundation
43. Midway between south and south-east

CLUES DOWN
1. Counterbalancing debt
2. In slow tempo
3. Glamorous city
4. Japanese lute
5. Makes law
6. Informative book
7. Animal's body part
9. American playwright
10. Blood poisoning
12. Angels
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
15. Written account
17. Unwelcome pest
19. Saddle horses
20. Type of gibbon
23. Delta is one
24. NE Massachusetts cape
25. Soup cracker
26. Yes vote
27. Muddy ground
28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
29. Type of drug
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Spanish municipality
36. Thrust a knife into

Answers on page 8

Emergency shelter services for County of Haliburton residents

As winter approaches, our thoughts often turn toward those experiencing homelessness in our community. A Place Called Home is funded to provide emergency shelter to residents of Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, including youth, adults, and families. Located in Lindsay, the shelter operates 30 beds, which represents a recent increase from 19 beds.

When an individual requires emergency shelter, they can call A Place Called Home. Staff will assess the situation, ensuring no other safe or viable options exist. If none are identified individuals will be offered a space in the shelter, based on availability. In very specific instances, depending on current shelter space and/or the individuals' circumstances, staff can authorize a brief hotel stay in the county. Transportation via taxi will be arranged as needed.

Although our primary goal is to provide long-term housing solutions, some community members may temporarily need emergency shelter. Individuals facing homelessness in our area encounter numerous challenges in securing safe and stable housing. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are involved in community planning initiatives to identify housing options and supportive services for the most vulnerable members of our population.

Additionally, when temperatures drop below minus ten degrees Celsius, we will temporarily increase shelter capacity through the Out of the Cold Program to ensure that those experiencing homelessness have access to warmth and safety. Our priority is to bring people indoors during extreme weather, protecting them from the dangers of the cold. The Out of the Cold Program runs from Dec. 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, and is also operated by A Place Called Home through the use of local motel rooms.

Over the past month, all individuals known to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the County of Haliburton have received supports to secure housing or find safer shelter options for the winter. This reduction is a direct result of our housing-focused support and the resourcefulness of our community members. The City of Kawartha Lakes has a dedicated homeless outreach worker in Haliburton County who engages with those experiencing homelessness and connects them to various community supports.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless, please contact A Place Called Home at 705-328-0905, or toll-free at 1-866-520-2689.

If you see someone staying outside, please report this by completing the City's Encampment Reporting Form at www.forms.kawarthalakes.ca/Housing-Help/Encampment-Reporting or email the Homelessness Street Outreach Team at streetoutreach@kawarthalakes.ca. Please note that these forums are not for crisis intervention. If you encounter someone in distress or facing a medical emergency, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

To learn more about Community Safety and Well-Being in Haliburton County, visit haliburtoncounty.ca/CSWB.

Submitted by Michelle Corley, Human Services Manager, Housing, City of Kawartha Lakes and Angela Ricciuti, Executive Director, A Place Called Home

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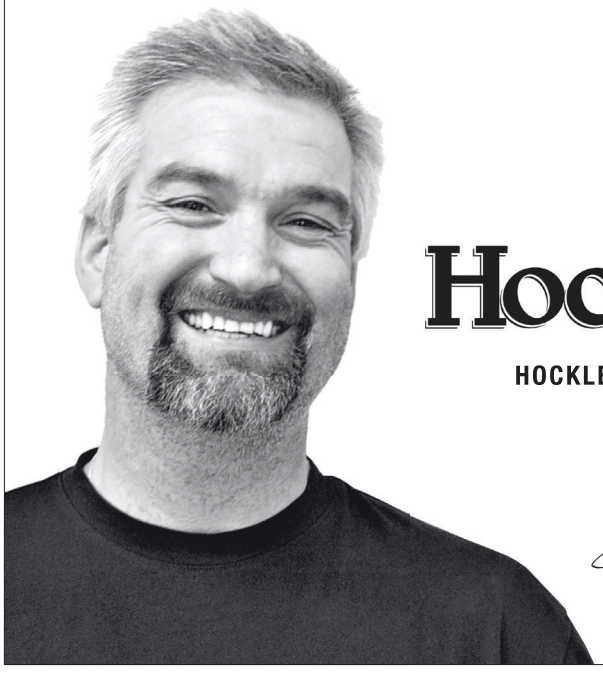

Hockley

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Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster

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520 THANK YOU

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Haliburton BIA Administrator

Job Summary:
The Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) is seeking an enthusiastic and organized Administrator to play a vital role in supporting the BIA's mission to enhance the vibrancy and success of Haliburton's downtown business community. This role involves member engagement, event support, communications, and collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure smooth operations and the successful execution of BIA initiatives.

Key Responsibilities:
Member Engagement:
- Conduct regular in-person visits with BIA members to foster strong relationships, address inquiries, and gather feedback.
- Welcome new members with in-person orientation sessions, providing essential resources and information.
- Provide timely updates to members about BIA activities, events, and initiatives through newsletters, emails, and other communication channels.

Event Support:
- Assist in the planning, coordination, and execution of BIA events, ensuring seamless operations.
- Promote events through newsletters, social media, and the BIA website to maximize member and community participation.

Communication & Administration:
- Manage all communications received through the BIA email and respond promptly and professionally.
- Maintain and regularly update the BIA website with relevant and engaging content.
- Create and post event promotions, updates, and announcements on BIA social media platforms.
- Attend BIA meetings, take accurate minutes, and distribute them to members within 24 hours.

Collaboration:
- Work closely with the BIA President and Secretary to align efforts and ensure the effective operation of BIA initiatives and events.
- Foster a collaborative environment to support the collective goals of the BIA and its members.

Qualifications:
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to engage with a diverse group of members and stakeholders.
- Proven organizational and time-management skills, with a detail-oriented approach to tasks.
- Proficiency in social media management, website maintenance, and email communications.
- Experience in event planning and coordination is an asset.
- Self-motivated, proactive, and able to work independently with minimal supervision.

Working Conditions:
This is a part-time position with flexible hours, including occasional evenings or weekends to support events. The role involves both in-office and in-community responsibilities, requiring travel within Haliburton.

How to Apply:
Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume and a cover letter detailing their qualifications and interest in the position to brandon.nimigon@c21.ca. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Join us in shaping a vibrant and thriving downtown Haliburton!

570 NOTICES

the arts council haliburton highlands

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday January 8, 2025
7 pm
Register on Eventbrite and join us on Zoom for a review of last year.
All are welcome to attend.
https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/agm-2025-tickets-1082646036439

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640 IN MEMORIAM

Dawson, Clifford

In memory of a dear father
Who passed away
December 12, 1997

"Just a memory, fond and true,
To show we still remember you,
Though 27 years have passed away,
Still we miss you day by day."

Sadly missed
by daughter Kathy
& son-in-law Keith

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Holly Kathleen Cooper (nee Miller)

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at the age of 67.

Beloved wife of the late Larry Cooper and William O'Toole. Dear sister of Brenda Scott (Archie), Judy Hatch (Alan), Randy Miller (Agnes), Wanda Miller (Craig), Wendy Miller (Rick) and predeceased by her brother Danny and her parents George and Bessie Miller. Fondly remembered by her nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, December 21, 2024 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of the Service to Celebrate Holly's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre in the funeral home. Spring Interment at Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton.

Memorial Donations to the Make a Wish Canada (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

645 CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Family and friends
are invited to a

Celebration of Life for Cindy Boughner

on December 28th
from 2-4pm at the
Haliburton Fish Hatchery
on Gelert Road.

650 OBITUARIES

Dorothy Owens (nee Cowie)

Resident of Haliburton

Dorothy Frances Owens (nee Cowie), in her 86th year, passed away peacefully and with dignity, surrounded by her very much loved children, on December 5, 2024. Born in Toronto on February 5, 1939, Dorothy lived a full and vibrant life and touched the lives of many people along the way.

Dorothy met and married her best friend and the love of her life, Ron, when she was very young. They married in 1957 and settled in Scarborough where they raised their four children, while Dorothy worked and went to York University part-time as a mature student. She graduated from York, Glendon College, with a degree in Sociology at the age of 49. Dorothy's connection to Haliburton started very young, when her parents, Dorothy and Judson Cowie, brought her to local lodges in Haliburton. Later, she and Ron owned cottages on Canning and Little Straggle Lakes. Once Ron retired, they moved to their 'house on the hill' in Haliburton and Dorothy continued to put her education to good use and along with her love of helping people, working at various agencies in the county including SIRCH, Hospice Haliburton and Sir Sanford Fleming College. She dedicated herself to volunteering for agencies that were near and dear to her heart, such as the Scarborough Board of Health, John Howard Society, the Distress Centre in Scarborough, HHHS, and Family Services in Haliburton.

Dorothy will be remembered as a very kind, caring friend, always there to listen. She was known for her green thumb and beautiful gardens, where she spent hours and found real peace. Her and Ron loved animals and there were often at least 2 dogs and a cat or two in her life, along with the odd raccoon or pigeon that she and her kids had rescued. Her most recent pet, her very special orange cat Michael, has brought her great joy these last couple of years.

Dorothy took great pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She is survived by her children Jan and her partner Mark from Haliburton, Rick and his partner Karen Holladay from Toronto, Steve from Kitchener, and Brad and his partner Ashley Owens from Airdrie, AB. Her grandchildren Sarah (Lance), Alex (Jess), Ben, Simon, and Chelsea along with her two great-granddaughters, Audrey and Lucy, all brought her such great joy. She is also survived by her much-loved sister, Marianne Bradbury (Keith), and her very special brothers-in-law Garry (Romana) and Brian (Karen). She also leaves behind her oldest, most cherished friend from childhood, Carolyn. Dorothy had many dear friends in the community, young and old, who will miss her.

Dorothy and her family would like to thank Paisley along with the other very caring and kind paramedics from the EMS/Community Paramedic Program who visited her weekly, Sheena and Lyn from M.A.I.D, and her many kind and helpful PSWs who have helped her over the years.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per Dorothy's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Cremation has taken place and a small private celebration of her life will take place when her family can gather again. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Dorothy's memory can be made to SIRCH at: P.O. Box 687, 49 Maple Ave, Unit 4, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0. 705-457-1742. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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-Leonard Cohen

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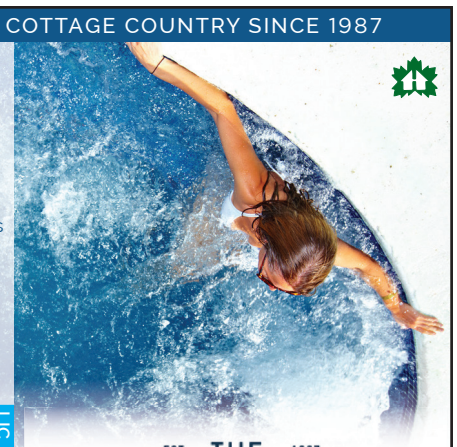

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Total 28 pages
Publications mail agreement # 40063862
Monday, December 24, 2012
Winner of the OCNA Award for General Excellence

Concert season

Kindergarten student Owen Sisson, front centre, waves to the audience at the annual Stuart Baker Elementary School Christmas concert held in the gymnasium on Dec. 19. The concert, held on the 18th and 19th, included traditional holiday tunes sung by the primary students, in both English and French.

Angelica Blenich
Staff

Traditions

Ecuadorian exchange student talks about her holiday traditions 3

Year in Review

2012 was marked by great success and tragic loss 11

New bandshell to revitalize park

Angelica Blenich
Staff reporter

The Rotary Club of Haliburton is proposing a new bandshell for Head Lake Park to be built as early as next summer.

President of the club Andrew Hodgson and members George Kadoke and Steve Roberts, made a delegation to Dysart et al council at their Dec. 17 meeting describing what the new bandshell would look like if approved.

The proposed project would be spearheaded by the service club in partnership with the municipality, said Hodgson.

"A larger structure, more weather protective, will enhance and expand the number/type of performances. Bringing a larger audience into the park more often will be an overall economic benefit to the village of Haliburton," wrote the club in their proposal to council.

In an effort to revitalize the park, the structure would be built out of wood from the Haliburton

see ROTARY page 16

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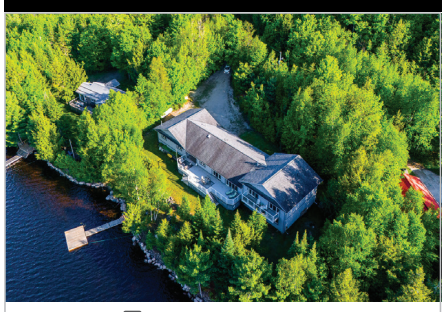

5 X BED · 4X BATH · MLS# X10436789

GULL RIVER
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EAGLE LAKE
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$679,900

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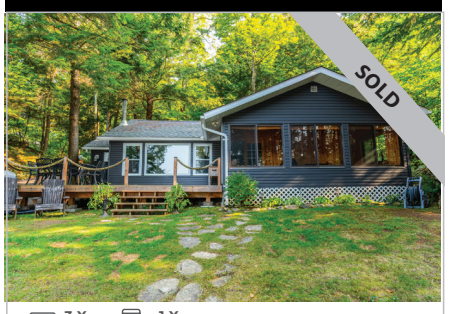


3 X BED · 1 X BATH

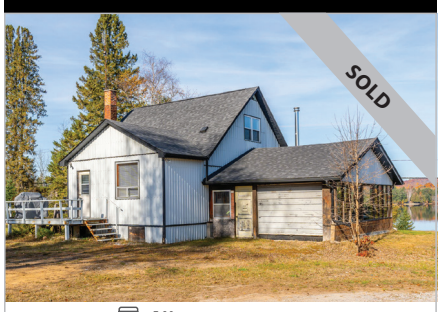
EAGLE LAKE
$597,000

3 X BED · 3 X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

4 X BED · 3 X BATH

WEST GUILFORD
$395,000



3 X BED · 1 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3 X BED · 2 X BATH

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Redstone Lake
MLS X10437225
$499,900
1.16 Acres

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X10899794
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS 10899857
$109,000
0.42 Acres

BRG HAS OFFICIALLY MOVED!

7 Dysart Avenue, Haliburton

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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